

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAHS: PFOR, SOPN, CA
SUBJ: MONTREAL PRESS REACTION TO WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL

1. MAJOR FRANCOPHONE MONTREAL DAILIES OF JULY 22, 1976 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON THE RECENT WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL WHICH PICTURED PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU AS THE OLYMPICS CENSOR.

2. IN A SECONDARY EDITORIAL ON JULY 23, LA PRESSE, WITH REFERENCE TO THE POST ARTICLE, WRITES, "IN BRIEF, THE AMERICANS LIKED US WHEN THEY WERE THE ELEPHANT AND WE WERE THE MOUSE. THEY LIKE US LESS NOW THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM ARE BECOMING NEITHER SPECIAL, NOR UNIQUE, BUT SIMPLY EQUAL".

3. THE OLYMPICS, SAYS LA PRESSE, WILL HAVE SERVED TO JUSTIFY MANY THINGS, INCLUDING AN OVERFLOW OF THE ANTI-CANADIAN FEELINGS HELD BY A CERTAIN SEGMENT OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION. THE UNNAMED WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL WRITER DID NOT SUBSTANTIATE HIS ALLEGATIONS BUT CONTENTED HIMSELF WITH POURING OUT HIS IRONY IN A TONE OF QUESTIONABLE TASTE. IF A SERIOUS NEWSPAPER LIKE THE POST ALLOWS ITSELF SUCH FLIGHTS OF FANCY, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM LESS PRESTIGIOUS U.S. DAILIES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CARRYING UNKIND STATEMENTS ABOUT "MONTREAL, THE GAMES, THE STADIUM, CANADA, ITS PRIME MINISTER, ITS POLITICS?" WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO OUR NEIGHBORS? ASKS LA PRESSE. THE TAIWAN SITUATION SEEMED CONFUSED ONLY TO THOSE WHO WANTED IT TO BE SO. OTTAWA
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PAGE 02 MONTRE 01011 232105Z

IS SURPRISED AT THE EMOTIONAL REACTION OF THE AMERICANS. AS

MR. TRUDEAU SAID RECENTLY ON A TV PROGRAM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CANADA OFFENDED THE CHINA LOBBY IN WASHINGTON BUT NOT THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES. THE ILL HUMOR OF OUR NEIGHBORS PROBABLY REVEALS SENTIMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REPRESSED FOR A LONG TIME AND THE TAIWAN ISSUE PROVIDES THE MORE IMPLUSIVE AMONG THEM WITH AN EXCUSE TO LET IT ALL COME OUT.

4. BASICALLY, THE AMERICANS DID NOT LIKE THE FACT THAT WE RECOGNIZED COMMUNIST CHINA AND THAT WE SOLD IT WHEAT. NEITHER DID THEY LIKE OUR LAW CONCERNING AMERICAN TV PROGRAMS TRANSMITTED TO CANADA, NOR THE TERMINATION OF THE FISCAL PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY TIME AND READERS DIGEST. FINALLY, THEY ESPECIALLY DISLIKED MR. TRUDEAU'S TRIP TO CHINA AND HIS STATEMENTS ABOUT IT. THE GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, A STRONG BACKER OF NATIONALIST CHINA, PROBABLY SUMMARIZED THE FEELINGS OF AMERICANS WHEN HE SAID THAT THEY FIND THAT CANADIAN POLITICS FAVOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.
HARPER

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